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7-5-03*

June 16, 2003

D. Austin Bonderer
USPTO Examiner
Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, DC 20231

Re: Application Number: 10/035,281
Applicant: Khanna, Rohit Kumar

Dear Mr. Bonderer:

The following is the response to your requests dated 4/15/2003 regarding the patent application number 10/035,281:

1. "The amendments must have two copies. The first being a marked up copy where new text is underlined and deleted text is in brackets. The second clean copy is a copy of claims as are currently pending without markings"

Response: I have enclosed two copies as requested above. These amendments are made to the original claims filed on 01/03/2002.

2. "The election must be made to one species and the claims drawn to that species must be elected. Claims not drawn to the elected species must be designated as withdrawn from consideration"

Response: The species elected has been designated to amended claim 1. All other claims are drawn to this elected species. Amended claims 9 and 12 draw to the spacing means component without the fixation means component of claim 1. Amended claims 13 and 17 draw to the fixation means component without the bone spacer component of claim 1. Original claims 2, 3, 6, 11, 15, 23, 24 are withdrawn from consideration.

Sincerely,

RK

Rohit K. Khanna, MD

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FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

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TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGES TRANSMITTED 11 (including cover sheet)

NOTE: USPTO Application Number: 10/035,281